

An Important Message On Cervical Cancer

From Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez



Loretta Sanchez discusses health care issues at a recent community event.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I learned about cervical cancer from my friends. Cervical cancer is a deadly but preventable disease for women. Vietnamese women are five times more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer than their Caucasian counterparts. The preconditions that give rise to cervical cancer can be found through a simple 5-minute Pap test. About 4,000 women this year will die of cervical cancer. These cases could have been prevented. I hope that you will find the information about cervical cancer useful.

Very truly yours,

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez
U.S. House of Representatives
12397 Lewis Street, Suite 101
Garden Grove, CA 92840

What is Cervical Cancer?

Cervical cancer begins in the cells of the cervix. Normally, when cells grow old, they die and new cells take their place. Cancer happens when new cells grow when the body does not need them, and old cells do not die when they should. These extra cells can form a mass of tissue called a tumor, which can be cancer. Almost all cases begin as an infection from a virus called the human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is sexually transmitted and common in both men and women. Cervical cancer is not caused by poor hygiene after sex.

Who Is At Risk?

Any woman can develop cervical cancer, but women who do not have regular Pap tests have a higher risk of cervical cancer. Vietnamese-American women have a higher risk of cervical cancer because many do not get regular Pap tests.

How Can I Prevent Cervical Cancer?

A Pap test, the best way to protect against cervical cancer, should be scheduled annually for women over 18.

Where Can I Get A Pap Test?

At your family doctor's office, an Obstetrician's or gynecologist's office, at clinics, or hospital.

Pap Test Results

If the result of your Pap test is normal, you don't have cervical cancer. An abnormal result does not necessarily mean you have cervical cancer, but may indicate that you have a viral or other infection, and your doctor can give you directions on treatment.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Contact the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345 or www.cancer.org

For information in Vietnamese and other languages, contact:

- The Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance – Call (714) 636-9095 or visit them online www.ocapica.org
- The Asian Pacific American Network – www.apanet.org/~fdala/

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A handwritten signature of Loretta Sanchez in black ink.

Loretta Sanchez,
Member of Congress

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